REREDOS, SAN MIGUEL MISSION

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

San Miguel is the oldest church still in use in the United States and dates from 1610 when Santa Fe was founded. The reredos or altar backdrop was built at the request of Don Jose Antonio Ortiz in 1798. The oil paintings which were in the Oldest Church before 1776, represent St. Teresa of Avila, St. Gertrude of Germany, St. Francis of Assisi, and St. Louis, King of France. The wooden statue of San Miguel was made in Mexico. It was brought to Santa Fe in 1693. The helmet and sword of the statue are made of solid silver.

Photo by Custom Craft Ltd. Santa Fe, N.M.

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